Virginia Department of Historic Resources PIF Resource Information Sheet

This information sheet is designed to provide the Virginia Department of Historic Resources with the necessary data to be able to evaluate the significance of the property for possible listing in the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. This is not a formal nomination, but a necessary step in determining whether or not the property could be considered eligible for listing. Please take the time to fill in as many fields as possible. A greater number of completed fields will result in a more timely and accurate assessment. Staff assistance is available to answer any questions you have in regards to this form.

General Property Information			For Staff Use Only DHR ID #:			
Property Name(s):	Walgreens building					
Property Date(s):	1941					
Property Address:	1509-1517 Mt. Vernon Avenue City: Alexandria Zip:					Zip: 22301
County or Ind. City:	Ind. City of Alexandria USGS Quad(s): Alexandria, VA-DC-MD					
Physical Character of General Surroundings						
Acreage: 0.7508 Setting (choose one): Urban Town Village Suburban Rural Transportation Corridor						
Site Description Notes/Notable Landscape Features: The building sits on level ground within a rectangular lot encompassing 32,705 square feet, situated on the southeast corner of E. Monroe and Mt. Vernon avenues. It contributes to the commercial character of Mt. Vernon Avenue, the main thoroughfare of an 1894 subdivision which was incorporated as the Town of Potomac in 1908 and annexed by the City of Alexandria in 1929. Secondary Resource Description (Briefly describe any other structures (or archaeological sites) that may contribute to the significance of the property:						
Ownership Category:	⊠Private	Public-Local	Public-Sta	ate	Public-l	Federal
Individual Resource Information What was the historical use of this resource? Examples include: Dwelling, Grist Mill, Bridge, Store, Tobacco Barn, etc Commercial						
What is the current use? (if other than the historical use) Commercial (drug store)						
Architectural style or elements of styles: Art Deco/Streamline Moderne						
Architect, builder, or original owner: David E. Bayliss, builder						
# of stories 1 Condition: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Poor Ruins Rebuilt Renovated						

Resource Component Information

Please answer the following questions regarding the individual components of the resource. If the component does not exist, answer "n/a." If you feel uncomfortable in answering the question, please leave the space blank. Photographs of the features can also help our staff identify specific feature components. Usually, priority is given to describing features on the primary (front) facade of the structure.

Foundation: Describe the foundation that supports the structure. Examples include piers, continuous brick, poured concrete. **Poured concrete**

Structure: Describe the primary structural component of the resource. Include primary material used. Examples include log, frame (sawn lumber), and brick. Also include the treatment, such as a particular brick bond or type of framing, if known. **Cinder block, brick**

Walls: Describe the exterior wall covering such as beaded weatherboard or asbestos shingles.

Cinder block, yellow brick (7:1 common bond)

Windows: Describe the number, material, and form of the primary windows. This includes the number of panes per sash, what the sashes are made of, and how the sashes operate (are they hinged or do they slide vertically) Have the windows been replaced? **Multi-light curtain wall, fixed-pane storefronts in aluminum frames**

Porch: Briefly describe the primary (front) porch. List the primary material, shape of the porch roof, and other defining details. N/A

Roof: Describe the roof, listing the shape and the covering material.

Flat

Chimney(s): List the number of chimneys and the materials used. Include the brick bond pattern if possible.

N/A

Architectural Description of Individual Resource: (Please describe architectural patterns, types, features, additions, remodelings, or other alterations. A sketch of the current floor plan would be appreciated.)

This Streamline Moderne commercial building at **1509-1517 Mt. Vernon Avenue** was erected in 1941 as a neighborhood shopping center. Local builder David E. Bayliss constructed it, but the designer is unknown. On 1 May 1941, Del Ray Inc. filed new construction permit #2989 with the City of Alexandria for a building on the southeast corner of Mt. Vernon and Monroe avenues. The building would measure 155-feet and 6.25-inches in the front and rear with a depth of 108-feet, and would enclose four stores of varying dimensions. [Figure 1] The cellar would be excavated eight feet below grade, while the first floor would rise eight inches above the curb grade. The exterior walls would be 13-inches thick, while the interior party walls would be one foot thick. The building would comprise concrete and brick, while the front would be trimmed in limestone and granite. The flat roof would comprise a steel deck and built-up with four-ply slag, and the building would be heated with a hot water heater. The approximate cost was projected as \$72,000.

The building's footprint first appears on the 1941 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map for the City of Alexandria, in which the rectangular form is divided into four interior spaces addressed 1507-1513 Mt. Vernon Avenue. [Figure 2] Accompanying notation describes the one-story building as comprising concrete foundation and floors, cinder block walls faced in brick, and a steel deck roof on steel joists with skylights. By the 1958 edition of the Sanborn map, the building was readdressed 1509-1517. [Figure 3]

¹ New Construction permit #2989 from 1 May 1941 for this building lists no architect and Bayliss as the builder only. 12/22/2015

Earlier editions of the Sanborn map of the city (1921 and 1931) show an empty lot on the southeast corner of E. Monroe and Mt. Vernon avenues.

The one-story edifice envelopes 15,672 square feet, ii and rises from a concrete foundation to a flat roof coped with aluminum. Situated on a corner lot, the building is rectangular in plan with a rounded corner at the intersection of the two thoroughfares it fronts. The façade faces Mt. Vernon Avenue and reads as eight bays as it wraps around the corner, while four bays front Monroe Avenue. The main entrance is positioned in the curvature, so that the north and west elevations equally address the streetscape. Both elevations comprise cinder block, while the south (side) and east (rear) elevations comprise yellow brick laid in a seven-to-one common bond. A band of polished, black granite panels masks the foundation and acts a sort of low water table on the façade; it continues around the north elevation, yet tapers to a point in the rear as the street elevation rises an incline.

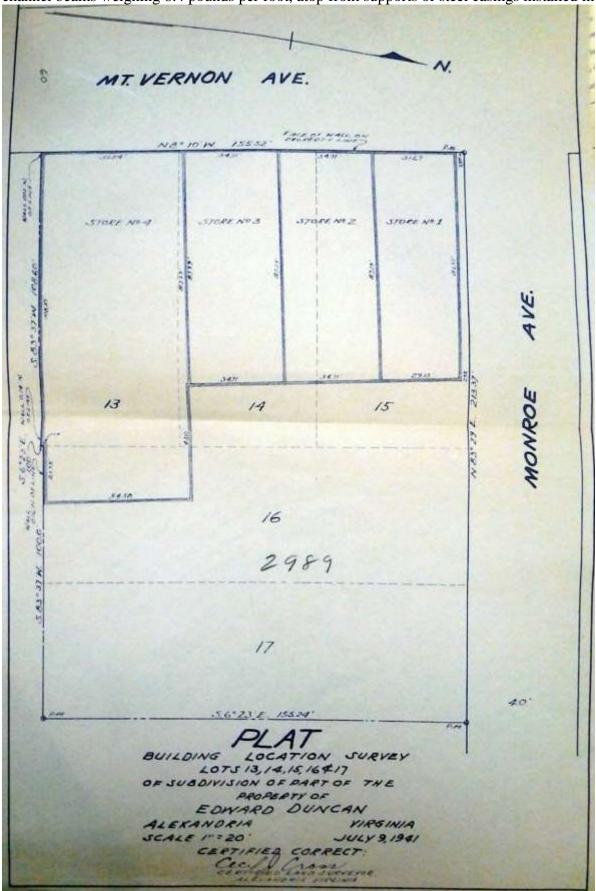
The façade is a glass curtain wall of fixed-pane storefront windows with aluminum frames, shaded by awnings. The fenestration is punctuated by three entrances, two of which are recessed. The southernmost entrance is flush with the façade, and holds a single metal door with a single, full-length light, a single-light transom, and single-light sidelight. The other two entrances hold double glass doors with single lights. The main entrance holds double doors with single lights framed by wide, two-light sidelights and a single-light transom. A curved awning shades the entrance, above which is the only decorative element on the otherwise blind attic: a vertical panel decorated with four rows of cascading chevrons, its rolled top extending slightly above the roofline. The north elevation is blind save for one storefront window on the westernmost bay, adjacent to the main entrance. It is a full-height, two-light, fixed-pane storefront window with aluminum frames and an awning. Two murals mimicking storefront windows with awnings have been painted to the east of the aperture. The south elevation is blind and painted with a large colorful mural announcing the gardening nursery located adjacent. The east (rear) elevation is similarly blind, although rear service doors accessing the rear surfacing parking lot have been bricked in. Older photographs show at least four such metal service doors punctuating the rear elevation.

Over the decades, a number of routine repairs and interior alterations were made to serve the needs of occupants and to refit spaces for new functions. The first alteration was made in 1943, when the building was occupied by the American Red Cross. Shannon & Luchs, agents on behalf of property owner Dr. Malcolm Gibbs, filed an alteration permit to construct a ramp and a covered loading platform in the rear designed and built by Davis, Wick, & Rosengarten, contractors, for \$500.ⁱⁱⁱ The grocery store at 1509 Mt. Vernon Avenue needed repair in January 1957: With specifications prepared by architects Patterson & Worland, builders Grover-Cooley, Inc. removed a rotted sill, blocking, framing, and plaster to a front show window for \$1,000.^{iv} In 1963, 1509 was refitted for a coin-operated laundry and dry-cleaning business by contractor A.J. Briscuso, who was paid \$1,000 to install curtain walls over the cleaning machines, to erect a partition across the rear of store, to paint walls and the ceiling, and to install dry cleaning and laundry equipment.^v Two years later, A. John Construction Company, Inc. was retained to construct a four-foot partition around the pressing equipment as well as lay a 13.5-foot by three-foot by one-foot concrete pad to accommodate the weight of five to 20-pound washing machines.^{vi} Virginia Roofing charged the owner of 1509 \$2,400 to install a new built-up, asphalt slag roof in 1968.^{vii}

Owner Abraham H. Hochberg erected an interior partition wall in number 1511 in order to create two stores in 1965. The 75-foot wall ran the length of the store and comprised two-by-four studs covered in half-inch plaster on both sides. In 1956, Dr. William Gross, owner of the Mt. Vernon Pharmacy housed in 1515, paid the David Max Glass Company \$600 to replace a wooden alcove and trim with aluminum doors and trim. In 1976, owner Allen Decker spent approximately \$1,200 installing non-bearing partitions in the drugstore in 1515, utilizing half-inch dry wall over 12-by-4 studs to create a four-foot hallway and an office space measuring ten by 17 feet. Numbers 1511, 1513, and 1515 were reroofed with slag and necessary flashing in 1966, while Virginia Roofing installed a new built-up slag roof over existing felt and insulation, as well as a steel deck using asphalt felt and hot asphalt on numbers 1515 and 1517 in 1967. The following year, Kool Vent Aluminum Company removed the existing roof over the

12/22/2015 3/17

service area of 1517, replacing it with 32-gauge aluminum panels supported by framework of ten-inch J-channel beams weighing 8.4 pounds per foot, atop front supports of steel casings installed in 1961. xiii



12/22/2015 4/17

Figure 1: Plat for proposed building on southeast corner of Mt. Vernon and Monroe avenues [1507-1513 Mt. Vernon], prepared by Cecil J. Cross, 9 July 1941. From new construction permit #2989 from 1 May 1941. Repository: City of Alexandria Archives and Records Center.

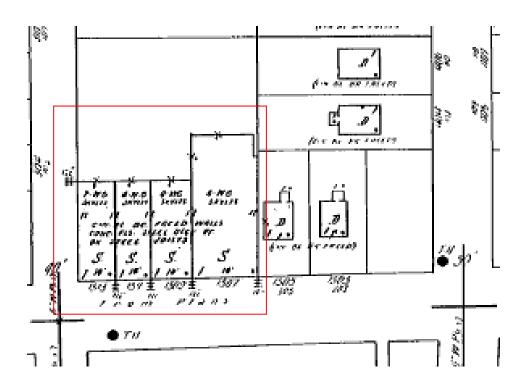


Figure 2: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Alexandria, Virginia, 1941, Vol. 1, Sheet 46.

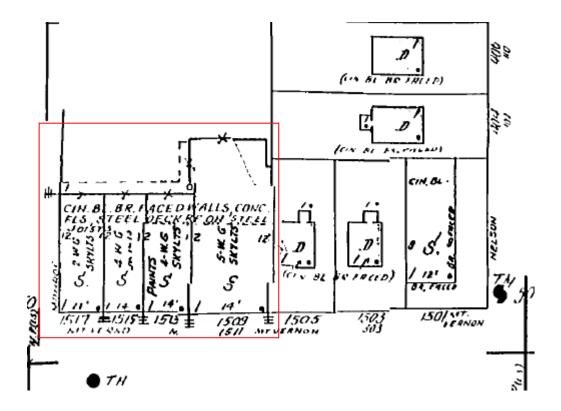


Figure 3: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Alexandria, Virginia, 1958, Vol. 1, Sheet 46.

12/22/2015 5/17

Significance Statement: Briefly note any significant events, personages, and/or families associated with the property. (Detailed family genealogies are not necessary.) Please list all sources of information. It is not necessary to attach lengthy articles or genealogies to this form. Normally, only information contained on this form will be posted for consideration by the State Review Board.

The site of the Walgreens building comprises Lots 13-17 of the subdivision of Edward C. Duncan's land, described as north of Park Addition, west of John Duncan's land, east of Mt. Vernon Avenue, and south of Washington [Monroe] Avenue. xiv [Figure 4]

As early as 1878, James and John Duncan owned land in the vicinity of Braddock Heights. [Figure 5] John emigrated from Ireland circa 1857, and established himself as a tavern keeper in Alexandria before joining the Union Army during the Civil War. Other Duncans flocked to the area to work for the railroads, and by the early 20th-century, most of the land flanking Mt. Vernon Avenue south of the Bellefont Avenue (the southern border of the Del Ray subdivision), and concentrated along E. Monroe Avenue, belonged to various members of the Duncan family. [Figure 6] The land remained largely undeveloped despite being conveniently situated between Old Town and the Town of Potomac; this changed, however, after the City of Alexandria annexed the land from Arlington County in 1930. This building lies outside of the boundaries of the Town of Potomac Historic District (1992), and therefore is not listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

In December 1932, 4.8243 acres of land belonging to William H. Duncan, the Commissioner of Revenue from 1912 to 1919 and the County Clerk from 1920 until 1932, was sold at public auction. The whole acreage was purchased by Edward C. Duncan, who sat on the Alexandria County Board of Supervisors between 1908 and 1931, worked as an engineer with the Pennsylvania Railroad for 37 years, and invested in real estate throughout the county. Nearly two acres of the property had been subdivided by William H. in 1929, but none of the narrow, urban lots had been sold or developed. In 1935, Edward resubdivided the land into larger, suburban lots and placed covenants on them, which stated that "no portion or any part of any lot or premises nor any interest therein shall be transferred, assigned, leased, rented or in any way conveyed to anyone not of the Caucasian race..." and that "No house, building or dwelling costing less than \$3,000 shall be erected upon any lot or portion of any lot or lots in this subdivision."

Several parcels were sold to developer Peter C. Duborg in 1936, who immediately transferred Lots 13-16 to M.H. Kendrick; the following year, Kendrick purchased Lot 17 from Duborg, expanding his parcel eastward. Kendrick sold his enlarged property to Malcolm J. Gibbs two months later; Gibbs retained ownership until 1941, when he transferred it to Del Ray Inc. In that year, the corporation built the present shopping center, which Lusk's Northern Virginia Real Estate Directory from 1955 assessed at \$62,607 (the value of the land with improvements) for that year.

The shopping center building was built by David E. Bayliss, an Alexandria resident who built a number of edifices in the city during this era, including the three-story brick apartment building at 2701-2705 Mt. Vernon Avenue (1941) and the Town of Potomac Fire House and Town Hall (1926). Bayliss is also credited with building the Capitol Theatre (1939), an Art Deco/Streamline Moderne movie house designed by John Zink and intended for African-American patrons within the Parker-Gray neighborhood of Alexandria. In 1940, when issued a permit to erect a concrete, limestone, and granite Memorial for the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Bayliss (residing 518 King Street in Alexandria) was listed as an architect as well as builder. His work in the area was so prolific that he warranted mention in the 1922 edition of *Manufacturers' Record*, volume 8, and a place in *Prominent Builders of Virginia*, published by the Architects Publishing Company circa 1940.

In January1961, Del Ray Inc. sold the property to Abraham H. and Freida E. Hochberg with Leonard Jacobs; it was the first transaction since 1935 in which the restrictions placed upon the transfer of land, imposed by Edward Duncan, were absent from the description of the property. After Jacobs relinquished his share, the Hochbergs held the property as sole owners until divesting it in 1990 to the Del

12/22/2015 6/17

Ray Shopping Center company. **XiV** After leasing the space to Walgreens' pharmacy company in 2011, the Del Ray Shopping Center Ltd. sold the property to Mt. Vernon & Monroe LLC, the current owner, in 2013. **XiV**

The edifice at 1509-1517 Mt. Vernon Avenue is a good example of a Streamline Moderne-style building. Popular in the early 1940s, the Streamline Moderne style was used primarily for commercial architecture in Virginia. Stemming from industrial design, and made popular by such mid-century designers as Raymond Loewy and Norman Bel Geddes, the Streamline Moderne was both a reaction against and a complement to the Art Deco style. While its application pared down the superfluous decorative elements that gave Art Deco its name, the style appropriated modern materials and geometric forms similar to its predecessor style. "Originally developed for vehicles and aircraft," stylistic traits include an "emphasis on smooth rounded forms and surfaces" as well as corner windows, rounded corners, ribbon windows, and steel and chrome details on a white or pastel exterior finish. *xxvi*

Taken in its context, the building is significant as an intact element in a larger commercial fabric that speaks to Del Ray's rise in the 1930s and 1940s. The building reflects the growing importance of Mt. Vernon Avenue as a commercial thoroughfare and exhibits the theme of trade: the four store spaces have held a number of neighborhood businesses, including grocery and hardware stores. Between approximately 1944 and 1948, the entire building was the eastern area supply office for the American Red Cross. The businesses with the longest duration include People's Hardware, which occupied 1513 from 1950 until 1959; the Mt. Vernon Drugstore, owned by Dr. William Gross, which was housed in 1515 from 1950 until 1980; and Pep Boys in 1517 from 1950 until 1976. Del Ray Food supermarket was housed in 1511 from 1942 until 1945; 1509 became the site of the Master Supermarket in 1950, followed by Foodtown in 1956 and Food King in 1961. The grocery store was converted to a dry cleaner's and laundry in 1963, called alternately Norge's Browns, and the Long Brothers'. Other businesses included High's Dairy, Alexandria Reproduction Company (blueprinting), Century Studio Stereo Records, India House (retail), and various antique and furniture shops. In 2014, it became a Walgreens drugstore. **xxvii**

The building is significant on the local and state levels as characteristic of the Streamline Moderne style (criterion C); for its association with local builder D.E. Bayliss (criterion B); and for its role in the development of Del Ray as an urban enclave (criterion A) concurrent with Northern Virginia's growing regional importance in the interwar years and the country's transformation from a predominantly rural to an urban character. It retains integrity in its setting, location, design, materials, and feeling.

12/22/2015 7/17

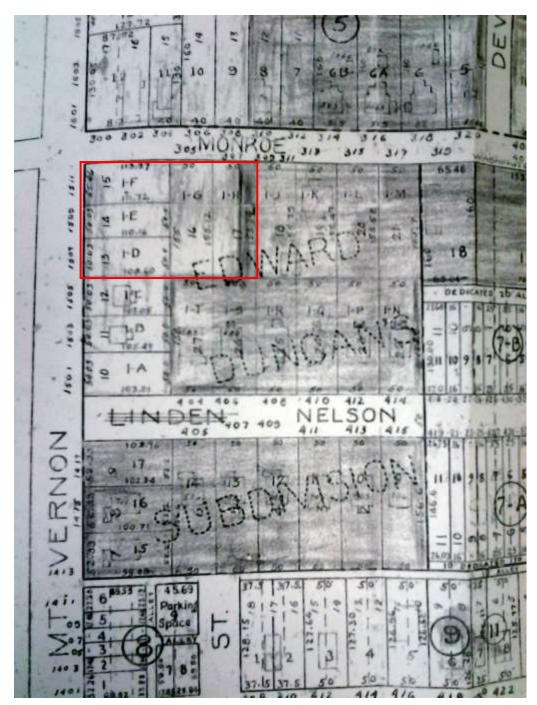


Figure 4: Plat of the subdivision of Edward Duncan's land. N.b., lots 13-17 (the parcel described herein) is outlined in red. From Alexandria City Deed Book 121, page 259. Repository: Alexandria Clerk of the Court - Court of Records.

12/22/2015 8/17



Figure 5: Map showing Duncan family holdings circa 1878. From Griffith Morgan Hopkins, Jr. "Atlas of Fifteen Miles around Washington, including the counties of Fairfax and Alexandria, Virginia" Philadelphia, 1878. Repository: Center for Local History - Arlington Public Library.

12/22/2015 9/17

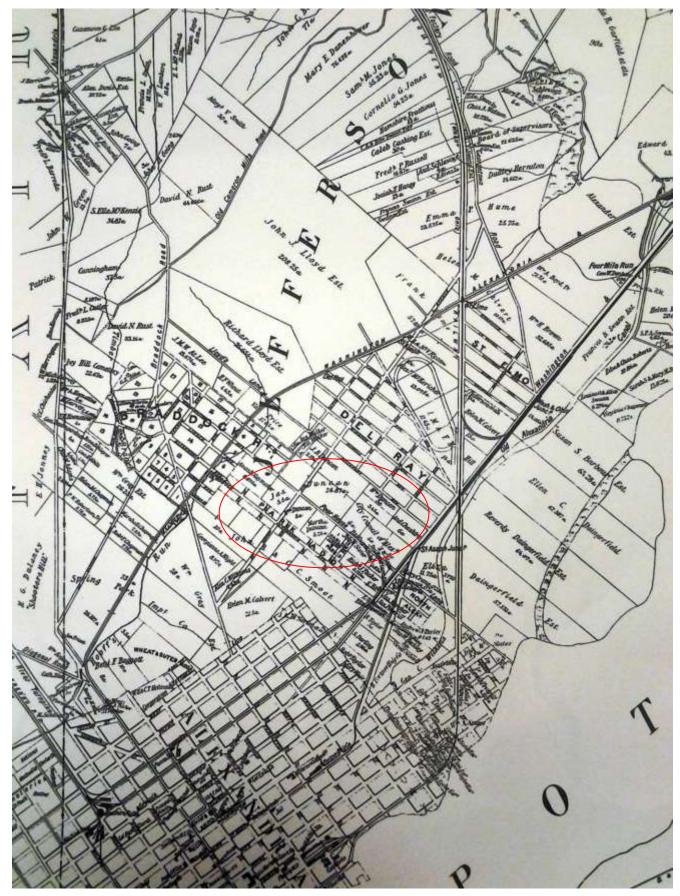


Figure 6: Map showing Duncan family holdings in the area east of Braddock Heights. N.b., "Poor House Road" is present-day Monroe Avenue. Howell & Taylor, "Map of Alexandria County, Virginia for the Virginia Title Co., Alexandria" 1900. Repository: Center for Local History - Arlington Public Library.

12/22/2015 10/17



1. 1509-1517 Mt. Vernon Avenue. Façade (west) elevation, oblique angle, facing 220 N. Photograph by Gwen White, 4/6/14.



2. 1509-1517 Mt. Vernon Avenue. Façade, detail entrance, oblique angle, facing 125° SE. Photograph by Gwen White, 4/6/14.

12/22/2015 11/17



3. 1509-1517 Mt. Vernon Avenue. Façade, detail chevron keystone above entrance, oblique angle, facing 125^{0} SE. Photograph by Gwen White, 4/6/14.



4. 1509-1517 Mt. Vernon Avenue. North elevation, oblique angle, facing 131^0 SE. Photograph by Gwen White, 4/6/14. 12/22/2015 12/17

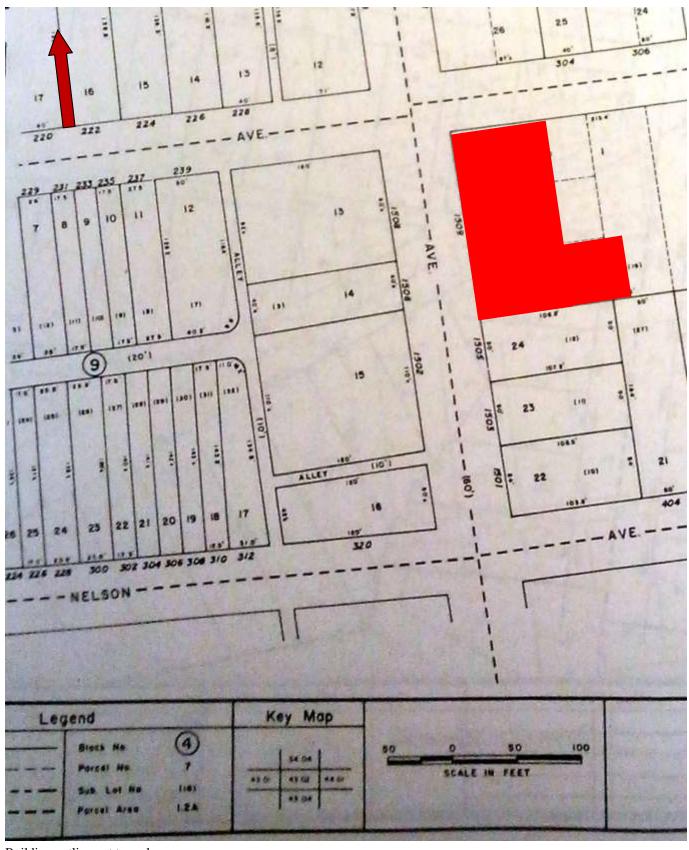


5. 1509-1517 Mt. Vernon Avenue. South elevation, oblique angle, facing 40° NE. Photograph by Gwen White, 4/6/14.



 $6.\,1509-1517$ Mt. Vernon Avenue. North and partial rear (east) elevations, oblique angle, facing SW. Photograph by Gwen White, 4/6/14.

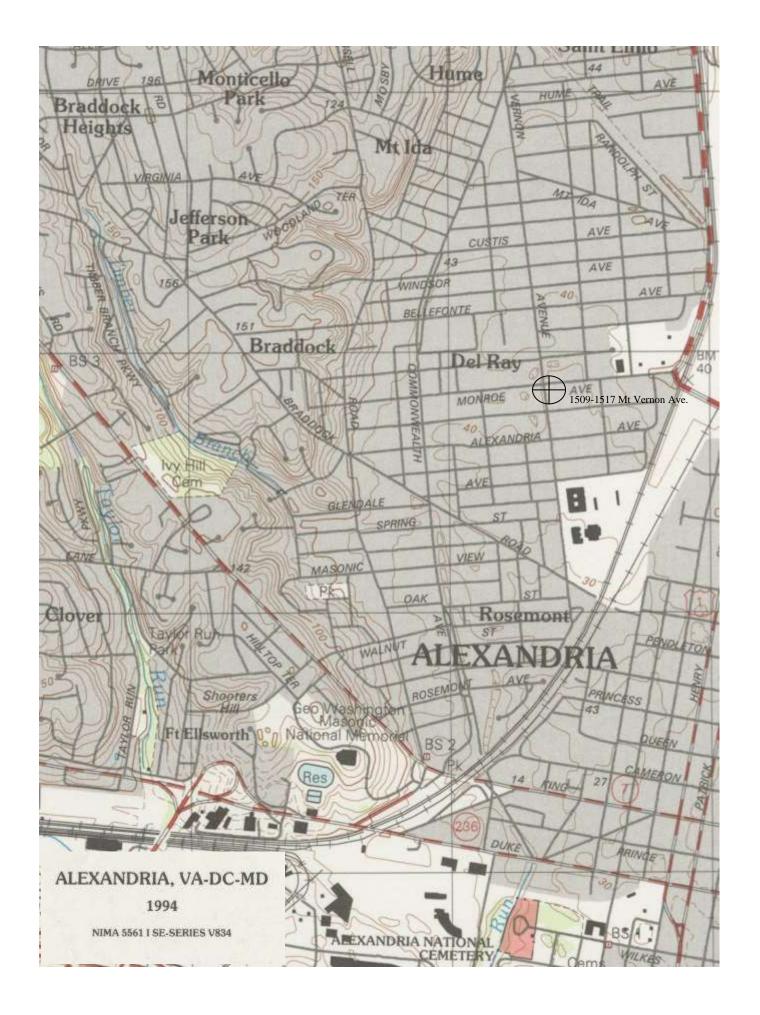
12/22/2015 13/17



Building outline not to scale.

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12/22/2015 14/17



12/22/2015 15/17

http://libcat.arlingtonva.us/iii/cpro/DigitalItemViewPage.external?lang=eng&sp=1001184&sp=T&sp=1&suite=def xvi_Ibid. Also, City of Alexandria Deed Book 112, page 525.

xvii City of Alexandria Deed Book 121, page 259, 2 May 1935: Edward Duncan, Deed of Vacation and Rededication. See, Arlington County Deed Book 306, page 419 from 31 December 1929: subdivision of part of William Duncan's Estate near Braddock.

xviii City of Alexandria Deed Book 126, page 70, 16 January 1936: Edward and Katie I. Duncan, Grantors, to Peter C. Duborg, Grantee. City of Alexandria Deed Book 126, page 70, 16 January 1936: Peter C. Duborg, Grantor to M.H. Kendrick, Grantee. City of Alexandria Deed Book 136, page 208, 13 May 1937: Peter C. Duborg, Grantor to M.H. Kendrick, Grantee. Alexandria Clerk of the Court - Court of Records.

xix City of Alexandria Deed Book 137, page 461, 17 July 1937: M.H. and Mary C. Kendrick, Grantors to Malcolm J. Gibbs, Grantee. City of Alexandria Deed Book 174, page 414, 1 May 1941: Malcolm J. Gibbs, Grantor to Del Ray Inc., Grantee. Alexandria Clerk of the Court - Court of Records.

xx Susan Escherich, Town of Potomac Historic District, National Register of Historic Places, 1992, Section 7: page 26 and Section 8: page 54.

xxi Terry Necciai and Arianna Drumond, "Uptown/Parker-Gray Historic District," National Register of Historic Places nomination, 2008/2010, Section 8: page 299. Accessed 13 June 2014 at:

http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/registers/Cities/Alexandria/100-0133 Uptown-

Parker_Gray_2011_FINAL_amended_nomination.pdf

xxii Al Cox, City of Alexandria Department of Planning and Zoning, "An Analysis of the Alexandria Union Station: An Historic Structure Report," Prepared for the City of Alexandria Department of Transportation and Environmental Services, 14 February 1995, page 44. Accessed 13 June 2014 at:

https://www.alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/historic/info/archaeology/ARSiteReportUnionStation (1).pdf

xxiif City of Alexandria Deed Book 528, pages 64-66, 13 January 1961: Del Ray Inc., Grantor to Abraham H. and Freida E. Hochberg and Leonard Jacobs, Grantees. Alexandria Clerk of the Court - Court of Records.

xxiv City of Alexandria Instrument No. 040021244, 31 December 1990: Abraham H. and Freida E. Hochberg, Grantors to Del Ray Shopping Center, Grantee. Alexandria Clerk of the Court - Court of Records.

xxv City of Alexandria Instrument No. 130016850, 10 July 2013: Del Ray Shopping Center Ltd., Grantor to Mt. Vernon & Monroe LLC, Grantee. Alexandria Clerk of the Court - Court of Records

12/22/2015 16/17

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ⁱ New construction permit #2989 from 1 May 1941 for the southeast corner of Mt. Vernon and Monroe avenues. City of Alexandria Archives and Records Center.

ii Alexandria Real Estate Assessment database, accessed via Alexandria Clerk of Court - Court of Records: record for 1509 Mt. Vernon Avenue, Account #13419500; Parcel Map 043.02-10-01.

iii Alteration/repair permit #5160 from 24 June 1943 for Shopping Center, Del Ray, Va. on southeast corner of Mt. Vernon and Monroe avenues. City of Alexandria Archives and Records Center.

^{iv} Alteration/repair permit #13105 from 23 January 1957 for 1509 Mt. Vernon Avenue. City of Alexandria Archives and Records Center.

^v Alteration/repair permit #19862 from 7 March 1963 for 1509 Mt. Vernon Avenue. City of Alexandria Archives and Records Center.

vi Alteration/repair permit #22087 from 8 July 1965 for 1509 Mt. Vernon Avenue. City of Alexandria Archives and Records Center.

vii Alteration/repair permit # 25615 from 8 August 1968 for 1509 Mt. Vernon Avenue. City of Alexandria Archives and Records Center.

viii Alteration/repair permit # 22384 from 28 September 1965 for 1511 Mt. Vernon Avenue. City of Alexandria Archives and Records Center.

^{ix} Alteration/repair permit #12961 from 8 October 1956 for 1515 Mt. Vernon Avenue. City of Alexandria Archives and Records Center.

^x Alteration/repair permit #32758 from 10 August 1976 for 1515 Mt. Vernon Avenue. City of Alexandria Archives and Records Center.

xi Alteration/repair permit #23523 from 14 October 1966 for 1511, 1513 and 1515 Mt. Vernon Avenue. City of Alexandria Archives and Records Center.

xii Alteration/repair permit #24005 from 14 March 1967 for 1515 and 1517 Mt. Vernon Avenue. City of Alexandria Archives and Records Center.

xiii Alteration/repair permit #25034 from 26 January 1968 for 1517 Mt. Vernon Avenue. City of Alexandria Archives and Records Center.

xiv City of Alexandria Deed Book 112, page 525, 31 December 1932: R.E. Remington, Trustee, Grantor to Edward Duncan, Grantee. Alexandria Clerk of the Court - Court of Records.

xv Sara Collins, "Edward Duncan, Jr. with Christopher Duncan," Arlington County Library Oral History Project, 19 May 2011. Accessed 11 June 2014 at Arlington Public Library Center for Local History, digital collections:

http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/NewDominion/NewDominionVAStyleGuide_MBversion.pdf

12/22/2015 17/17

xxvi Melina Bezirdjian and Lena Sweeten McDonald, *New Dominion Virginia Architecture Style* Guide, Virginia Department of Historic Resources (February 2014) p. 24. Accessed 5 May 2014 at

Directories from various years. See the City of Alexandria Archives and Records Center for the former, and the Special Collections/Local History of the Kate Waller Barrett Branch Library for the latter.